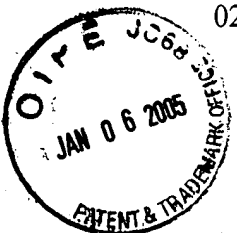


IFW

02280.002470.1

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: R. Yan
E. MICHAEL ACKLEY, JR. ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: 2854
:)
Application No.:10/619,571 :
:)
Filed: July 16, 2003 :
:)
For: APPARATUS FOR PRINTING :
MULTICOLOR IMAGES ON :
EDIBLE PIECES : January 5, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In an Office Action dated December 6, 2004, a response to which is due by January 6, 2005, the Examiner required applicants to provisionally elect one of two allegedly distinct species as follows:

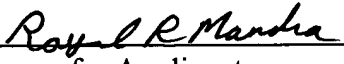
Group I: the species as represented by Figure 3; and

Group II: the species as represented by Figure 8A.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I for prosecution on the merits, without traverse. Claims 33-58 read on the elected species, being characterized by a recess having a vacuum hole. Claims 33 and 47 are independent claims. No presently pending claims are generic.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
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